

Patron—His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Rodgers, Bishop of Killaloe.

The Kilrush Operatic Society

(AMATEUR)

Presents Benedict's

"THE LILY OF KILLARNEY"

Mars Theatre,
FC Kilrush

FOR 8 NIGHTS

With GUEST ARTISTES:

VERONICA DUNNE
Soprano

DENNIS NOBLE
Baritone

JANET HOWE
Mezzo-Soprano

KENNETH MacDONALD
Tenor

TICKETS:

BALCONY 7/6 - Bookable
PARTERRE 5/6 - Bookable
" 3/- Unreserved



RESERVATIONS:

Please write, telephone or call:

OPERA BOOKING OFFICE

c/o. William's Hotel, Kilrush. 'Phone 36.

commencing

Sunday, May 10

and ending

Whit Sunday, May 17

(Gala Patron's Performance—Monday, 11th May)

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
ONE SHILLING

From the Past

1951 "STUDENT PRINCE"	JOSEPHINE SCANLON	-	"Overhead the moon is beaming"
	JOSIE O'DONNELL	- -	"Golden days in the sunshine of our happy youth"
	DENIS EGAN	- - -	"Deep in my heart dear, I have a dream of you"
1952 "DESERT SONG"	JOHN DETTICK	- -	"If one flower grows alone in your garden"
	JOSEPHINE SCANLON	-	"One alone, to be my own"
	JOSIE O'DONNELL	- -	"Blue Heaven, and you and I"
1955 "NEW MOON"	PATRICIA BAIRD	- -	"Give me some men who are stout-hearted
	THOMAS ROUND	- -	"Lover come back to me" [men"
	KEVIN BARDEN	- -	"One kiss, one man to save it for"
1956 "ROSE MARIE"	LISBETH LENNON	- -	"When I'm calling you, oo-oo-oo, oo-oo-oo"
	THOMAS MILNE	- -	"On through the hail, like a pack of angry wolves—"
1957 "MARITANA"	LISBETH LENNON	- -	"Angels that around us hover"
	JANET HOWE	- - -	"In happy moments day by day"
	JOHN HAUXWELL	- -	"Let me like a soldier fall"
	KENNETH MacDONALD		
1958 "THE DAUGHTER of the REGIMENT"	MARGARET NISBETT	-	"There they are, there they are, there they are"
	ALMA CAESARI	- - -	"None with the Twentieth on earth can compare"
	RONALD LEWIS	- -	"Rat-a-plan, rat-a-plan, rat-a-plan"
	KENNETH MacDONALD	-	"The Camp and the Battle, my joy & delight"
	JOHANNA PETERS	- -	"What pleasure, what gladness, oh sing a joyful strain"



Cily, The Colleen Bawn

Veronica Dunne studied singing in Rome for four years—1946-48 and 1950-52. In December 1948 she made her Operatic debut in Bizet's Carmen as Micaela with the Dublin Grand Opera Society. The following year she sang again with the same company, this time as Margherita in Faust. In 1950 she entered for an operatic competition in Milan and won her part as Mimi in La Boheme at the summer season, Teatro Nuovo, Milan. She returned to Dublin again in April 1952 and sang Mimi in La Boheme and Norina in Don Pasquale. She joined Covent Garden Opera Company in September 1952 and made her Operatic debut there as Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier. She then sang Mimi in La Boheme and Eurydice opposite the late Kathleen Ferrier in Orpheus. She also sang Suzanna in the Marriage of Figaro. Starting in January 1955 she toured America for three months and gave a recital at Carnegie Hall, New York. In 1957 she went on a tour with the Covent Garden Opera Company and returned with them to London, singing Musetta in La Boheme.

VERONICA DUNNE



To Our Jack



Dennis Noble

Dennis Noble

ALTHOUGH this is his first visit to the West of Ireland, *Dennis Noble* is no stranger to Irish audiences, having sung in opera performances in Cork and Dublin for many years.

☆

His voice is well known to radio and gramophone listeners. During his career he has sung many principal baritone roles, not only in Covent Garden, London, but in Opera Houses in Paris, New York, Philadelphia, etc.

☆

For many years he was a member of the British National Opera Co. and the Carl Rosa Opera. He now holds a Professorship of Singing at the Guild Hall School of Music, London.

Janet Howe

To Father



Michael
Carol Howe
very important

Welcome return visit to Kilrush following her role of Lazarillo in "Maritana". She has frequently sung at Covent Garden, Sadler's Wells and with the Carl Rosa. She regularly gives T.V. Operatic performances.

Kenneth MacDonald



Jack, happy memory of his father working with the MacDonalds

Since his visit to Kilrush last year for "The Daughter of the Regiment" he has played in "Rigoletto" in Cork and "Don Pasquale" in Waterford. In England he has just sung in "Lucia de Lammermoor", at Covent Garden, where he is returning in a fortnight's time to sing in "Rosenkavalier" under Rudolph Kempe.

The Lily of Killarney

An Opera in Three Acts by SIR JULIUS BENEDICT.
Producer—MR. H. POWELL LLOYD, London.

Characters in order of appearance :

O'MOORE	JACK McGRATH
HARDRESS CREGAN	KENNETH MacDONALD
HYLAND	THOMAS MOLONEY
MRS. CREGAN	JANET HOWE
MR. CORRIGAN	MICHAEL HOWARD
DANNY MANN	DENNIS NOBLE
MYLES NA gCOPPALEEN	GERRY CLANCY
FATHER TOM	JACK CULLIGAN
EILY O'CONNOR	VERONICA DUNNE
SHEELAH	EILEEN LYNCH
ANN CHUTE	DOREEN HOWARD
SERVANT	JACK FENNELL
CORPORAL	JOSEPH FLYNN

LADIES OF THE CHORUS: M. Breen, S. Breen, P. Buggle, M. Cotter, K. Doyle, M. Fennell, M. Dunleavy, M. Hanrahan, M. Downes, K. Harrop, M. Lillis, E. Lillis, B. Lynch, M. Moloney, N. Meaney, S. Moody, O. Nash, N. O'Leary, P. O'Dea, A. O'Reilly, T. Rush, J. Reidy, B. Roughan, L. Shalloe, C. Shannon, P. Pryle, R. Keller, M. O'Dwyer, A. Maher, P. Enright, B. McCarthy, S. Fennell and B. Kyne.

DANCERS: B. Roughan, M. Dunleavy, L. Shalloe, M. Flynn, L. O'Leary and B. Griffin.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CHORUS: F. Breen, C. Clancy, T. Downes, V. Eustace, J. Flynn, J. Fennell, J. Keller, W. Hally, J. Kiely, S. Liddane, M. Lynch, S. Lynch, J. McGrath, F. O'Brien, M. O'Mahoney, T. Mangan, W. O'Looney, P. Shalloe, P. McInerney, T. Moloney, P. J. Maher and P. J. Tubridy.

Orchestra

1st Violins: Mr. F. O'Carroll, Miss Sheila Tierney and Thomas Crotty; *2nd Violins:* Miss Frances Flavin, Mr. B. Cullinane; *Viola:* H. Gebler; *Cello:* Miss Byrne; *Bass:* Mr. H. Edwards; *Flute:* Miss Eileen Leeming; *Clarinet:* Mr. W. Fahy; *Oboe:* Mr. K. Kavanagh; *Horns:* Mr. T. Scollard and Mr. W. Moore; *Cornet:* D. Sutton; *Timpani:* J. Bonnie.

Musical Director and Conductor: MR. GEORGES MINNE
(Graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Music)

Stage Manager: Laurence Rush; *Lighting:* G. C. Glynn; *Scenery:* Eileen Lynch; *Make-up:* J. A. Doyle; *Costumes:* Mrs. J. Sherin; *Lighting Equipment:* Supplied by Strand Electric Ltd., Dublin; *Costumes:* By Ladies Committee and P. J. Burke & Co., Dublin; *Teas for Cast:* Ladies' Committee; *Steward:* C. Moore; *Programmes:* Miss E. McMahon; *Ice Cream:* Mrs. T. Flynn.

THE ACTION OF THE OPERA

The Scene is laid in Ireland in the early part of the Nineteenth Century.

ACT 1: Scene 1—The Hall of Tore Cregan.
Scene 2—A Country Lane.
Scene 3—Inside Sheelah's Cottage.

(Interval—10 Minutes)

ACT 2: Scene 1—Outside Tore Cregan.
Scene 2—By the Lakeside.
Scene 3—Cave on the Lake.

(Interval—10 Minutes)

ACT 3: Scene 1—Outside Myles' Shanty.
Scene 2—The Castle Hall.

The Story of the Opera

THE Opera of "The Lily of Killarney" is a musical version of the drama of the "Colleen Bawn", whose thrilling and yet simple history is admirably adapted to lyrical expression.

The curtain rises on a party of Hardress Cregan's friends enjoying the hospitality of the Hall at Tore Cregan, exhibiting the careless joyousness of the Irish temperament. The party ends characteristically in a race by moonlight to try the relative mettle of two of the guests' horses. Mrs. Cregan, left alone, is visited by Corrigan, a land agent. Vulgar, obsequious and graspingly ambitious, he holds a mortgage on the Cregan estates and, as the only chance of payment, is anxious to see young Cregan married to the heiress Ann Chute. Failing this he hints at being willing to take the hand of the still attractive Mrs. Cregan in satisfaction, an idea which is scornfully repulsed by the proud matron.

Hardress Cregan's humble, confidant and faithful follower, the boatman Danny Mann, is now heard singing, and Corrigan informs Mrs. Cregan that Danny is waiting to take her son to see the Colleen Bawn, the peasant rival of Ann Chute. To confirm this, he causes her to watch the signal exchanged by Hardress with his mistress, whose light is seen at her cottage window across the lake. It is extinguished simultaneously with that held by Hardress, who has appeared on the stage at Danny's vocal summons. Danny and Hardress then leave on their joint expedition, leaving Mrs. Cregan in despair at the discovery, and Corrigan triumphant.

After an interview between Corrigan and Myles na gCoppaleen, the peasant lover of the Colleen Bawn, in which Corrigan tries to get information about the secret intrigues of Hardress, we are introduced into the cottage of the Colleen Bawn, where Father Tom, the good priest who watches over her, endeavours to persuade her to get Hardress to proclaim his marriage to her openly. When Hardress appears, however, he attempts to make her abandon the marriage certificate and promise to conceal their union altogether. Myles intervenes to prevent the success of this scheme, and the priest reappearing, binds her by an oath never to part with her "marriage lines". Hardress, enraged at her submission, departs, bidding her farewell forever and leaving her senseless from emotion.

Hardress, in the 2nd Act, is seen wooing Ann Chute, though haunted with remorse at his desertion of Eily. Danny Mann, whose devotion knows no limits, noting his master's trouble, offers to do away with its cause, the Colleen Bawn. His suggestion is repelled with horror by Hardress. However he still clings to the only solution in his eyes of the difficulty, and expresses his readiness to act if young Cregan will but send his glove as a token secretly understood between them that the Colleen is to disappear. Meanwhile Corrigan still presses his loathsome alternative on Mrs. Cregan, when Hardress, who is present, threatens him and Corrigan retires with taunts and threats. Danny Mann overhears this scene, and insinuates to Mrs. Cregan that if she can get her son to send his glove as a token he will soon remove the only impediment to the family happiness. Mrs. Cregan disappears awhile and re-enters with her son's glove which Danny Mann eagerly seizes and proceeds to carry out his act.

Poor Eily O'Connor is induced by him to enter his boat under the notion her husband has sent for her. Though frightened by the desperate manner and menacing hints of Danny, who has primed himself with drink for his odious task, she goes with him. Her alarm is soon shown to be well founded, when Danny Mann rows her to a lonely water cave, and bidding her to step out on a solitary rock, tells her she must hand over her marriage lines or take them with her to the bottom of the lake. Myles, who uses the cave as a secret haunt, prevents this threat from being fulfilled by shooting Danny Mann, whom he mistakes for an otter in the dim light. He saves the Colleen Bawn, whose body he sees beneath the water, and rescues her after diving in. Hardress is arrested for murder as an accomplice of Danny Mann, who, wounded but not dead, has made a dying confession of the scheme against the Colleen Bawn's life. Corrigan, who has brought the soldiery about Ann Chute's house at the moment of young Cregan's marriage with the heiress, is nearly triumphing in his revenge, when Myles na gCoppaleen produces the living Eily O'Connor, or rather Eily Cregan, Hardress' lawful wife. Mrs. Cregan absolves her son of even intentional guilt by confessing that she alone procured the glove that was to convey to Danny Mann the order to execute his wicked design.

Musical Director and Conductor



GEORGES MINNE

COMES from Ghent. On graduation in 1952, left Belgium for Roscrea. A grandson of Baron Georges Minne, world famous Sculptor of Religious Art, whose last major work was the Sacred Heart statue for the new Basilica in Brussels.



Came to Kilrush three years ago where he holds appointment as Organist and Choir-master at St. Senan's Church, Kilrush. Is well known throughout the country for his Organ recitals on Radio Eireann.



Was Musical Director and Conductor of the Society's productions of "Maritana" and "The Daughter of the Regiment." He has been taking rehearsals regularly for "The Lily of Killarney" since January.

H. POWELL LLOYD

AS an actor at the "Old Vic", played Shakespeare and in many classical and modern plays. Later sang many operatic roles with Sadler's Wells. He has produced over fifty different Operas for Sadler's Wells, Carl Rosa, Welsh National Opera, Wexford Festival, Johannesburg Municipal Opera, Auckland (New Zealand) Festival, etc.



H. Powell Lloyd

As a young actor played the part of Mr. Corrigan in "The Lily of Killarney" at the "Old Vic" in 1931.



The accompanying photograph is taken from one of his recent roles on T.V.

Producer



About Our Own Members



Alma Caesari—the Daughter of the Regiment—sings to her fathers, the Kilrush Male Chorus as Soldiers of the Twentieth.

- ★ **GERRY CLANCY**—Has taken minor leads in every production of the Society since the start. This is his first major role in the exacting part of Myles which he has prepared for with great earnestness and enthusiasm. The Society believes his beautiful tenor voice will stand comparison with the experienced professional guest artistes. He is on the staff of a local timber mill.
- ★ **JACK CULLIGAN**—Has had major roles in all productions since the start. Acted as Musical Director for "Rose Marie" and now assists Mr. Minne with the chorus training. Senior Official in Kilrush G.P.O.
- ★ **DOREEN HOWARD** — Makes a welcome return to the Society after a break of a few years following her marriage. Took a leading part in "The Student Prince" and "The Desert Song"—then as Miss Doreen Kelly.
- ★ **MICHAEL HOWARD** — Again with the Society from the start. Well remembered for his fine acting as the Red Indian Chieftain in "Rose Marie". He is a Painting Contractor.
- ★ **AND THE CHORUS**—As ever the back-bone of the Society, always striving by unceasing practice, not only to uphold but to further enhance the good reputation of the Society.

Best wishes

from my b's

Patrons

THE Society is deeply grateful to its numerous Patrons who each year, by their unfailing support, enable it to undertake such ambitious productions. A list of Patrons up to the time of printing for "The Lily of Killarney" is enclosed separately. To those who may not have received our Patrons' Appeal we would advise that for a subscription of £1:

- (a) Patrons are entitled to one complimentary ticket; available for any one performance excluding the final night.
- (b) As Patron Members of the Society are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting in July to elect incoming Committee.
- (c) By their generous support keep the Society in being which provides a worthwhile past-time for almost one hundred active members.

The True Story

THE Opera "The Lily of Killarney" and the novel "The Collegians" by Gerald Griffin are based upon the true but tragic life story of Ellen Hanley ("The Colleen Bawn") who was born near Croom, Co. Limerick, in 1802. After her mother's death, she lived with an uncle named Connery, adopted his name, and at the time of the tragedy was about sixteen years old. She went through a form of marriage in secret with John Scanlan who was a dismissed Officer of the Royal Marines and lived adjacent to Croom. He frequently journeyed to Foynes, Glin and Tarbert districts on shooting and fishing trips and was well known there. With Ellen Hanley, he is also known to have visited Kilrush.

Scanlan had as servant and companion one Stephen Sullivan (the "Danny Mann" of our Opera) and having tired of his "marriage" prevailed upon Sullivan to drown Ellen Hanley in the Shannon. Sullivan murdered her in a boat and cast her body into the river. It was found six weeks later on the strand at Money Point, near Kilrush, on the 4th July, 1819. Scanlan and Sullivan paid the supreme penalty for their crime. Daniel O'Connell, the Liberator, defended Scanlan at the trial.

Ellen Hanley is buried in Burrane Churchyard about five miles from Kilrush, in the grave of one Peadar O'Connell, a Professor of Languages and Philosophy, who is recorded as himself having died in 1826. The Churchyard may be reached by travelling the Coast Road from Kilrush to Cappa, Aylevaroo, Moyne and then on to Killimer and Burrane.

Visitors from Ennis and beyond can take the beautiful scenic road by the Shannon River through Kildysart and Labasheeda. At the bridge of Kilmurry McMahon turn left for Knock and thence on to Kilrush via Burrane Graveyard, keeping all the time to the river. This is a good tourist road and only two small stretches remain to be completed to finish "The Ring of Clare".

The Kilrush Operatic Society acknowledges with thanks the ever-ready assistance of the Rev. Superior and Brothers of the Christian Brothers' School, Kilrush, who pioneered the Society, and have since kept it going by their constant and ever-willing help, and by the provision of the School and equipment for rehearsals.

The Society also thank all others who by their voluntary efforts have contributed to this Production.

Kilrush Operatic Society

1958-59 SEASON

President—VERY REV. P. J. CANON VAUGHAN, P.P., V.F.

Chairman—DR. R. COUNIHAN

Vice-Chairman and Assistant Musical Director—MR. J. CULLIGAN

Hon. Secretary—MR. C. GLYNN

Hon. Treasurers—MR. R. N. BERRY and MR. W. D. SAUNDERS

Musical Director—MR. GEORGES MINNE

(Graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Music)

Committee—Messrs P. J. Byrne, J. C. Clancy, J. A. Doyle, J. Fennell, G. C. Glynn, J. Keller, Miss E. Lynch, Messrs C. Moore, L. Rush, T. Sheehan and Mrs. J. M. Sherin.

Hon. Correspondence Secretary—MISS MARGARET FENNELL